

P R E F A C E.

In view of the approaching Confederation of the British Provinces in North America, and the prospect of their extending their commercial relations with each other and with foreign parts, a hand-book of common information respecting them seems to be required—a want which the publishers of the Year-Book endeavour to supply.

The editorship of the work has been entrusted to Mr. Arthur Harvey, of the Finance Department, Ottawa, Fellow of the Statistical Society of London, England; and it is due to that gentleman, in view of his official standing, to state that he undertook it not for a pecuniary consideration, simply, but with a view to collect information respecting the affairs of the Maritime Provinces likely to be of use to himself in the discharge of his official duties, to the department of Government to which he belongs, and to the public men of the future Confederation.

In carrying out the details of the work, Mr. Harvey was fortunate in securing the assistance of Mr. Wm. Smith, Comptroller of Customs, St. John, N. B., the ablest commercial statist in that Province. He desires also to acknowledge the kindness of his friends, the Hon. Jas. Macdonald, Financial Secretary of Nova Scotia, and the Hon. Wm. H. Pope, late Colonial Secretary of Prince Edward Island, whose active aid was of the utmost advantage.

The editor, knowing the extreme difficulty of compiling such a work with absolute correctness, begs that any persons who may discover any possible errors will communicate with him. He will also be glad to receive suggestions for its improvement in any particular.

The publishers, witnesses of the extreme care taken to ensure accuracy, and believing the contents of the Year-Book to be of general usefulness, feel sanguine that the work will meet with public favour.

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